

Friday Evening, 31st May, 1839,

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I called this morning on the American Minister here, Mr. Muhlenberg, and his Secretary of Legation, Mr. Clay. I obtained no ~~news~~ news from home, except what I had already seen in Galignani's Messenger, and that nothing of any consequence. I observe that the Steam-Ship British Queen, after this long delay, is finally advertised to leave London for New York on the first of July. I shall try to send letters from Switzerland. The fare for the highest class of passengers is 40 guineas. I visited this morning, through the kindness of Mr. Endlicher, who gave me a note to the director, - the Museum of Antique vases, bronzes, and Cameos &c - which contains some most remarkable things. Some of the intaglios are far the finest in the world. There were also shown the Cabinet of Mosaic medals (very rich indeed) and coins. The remainder of the morning was devoted to the botanical Cabinet; and in the afternoon and early part of the evening I called with Endlicher upon Mr. Herzel, the aid-naturaliste in the Botanical Department, who is confined to his bed by some affection of one of his legs. He is engaged in a Monograph of Alsineæ, which I think will be very faithfully done, and we looked over several collections by his bed-side. I made a bundle of all I wished to examine, which are sent to my lodgings for the purpose, and which will give me occupation for the evening. He introduced me to his foam, a regular Dutch lassie, and we managed to converse altogether for some time in a curious mixture of French, Dutch, and English.

On the Danube, on board the Dampschiff (Steam-boat) Maria-Anna, bound for Linz, Wednesday Morning, 5th June, 1829.

The pressure of my occupations at Vienna left me little time to write, and their sameness, very little to say. But if the motion of the boat permit I will while away an hour or so, with such reminiscences of Vienna as may be likely to interest you. It is a very striking place at first but soon becomes dull. An active person who had nothing else to do would exhaust it in less than a week. I have spent nearly every morning (until 2 P.M.) in the Imperial Cabinet, but I have been able, during my short stay to see almost all the sights that I feel much interest in.

I mentioned our visit to the Picture-gallery in the Upper Belvedere Palace. Some days after we made another to the Lower Palace, and saw the Ambras Museum, which contains the finest and largest collection of ancient armour I had ever seen, perhaps the best collection extant. There are about 150 suits, which belong to princes and great men of the Middle Ages, and their authenticity I believe may mostly be relied on. The armour of the Emperor Maximilian for Man and Horse, complete, is one of the most interesting, and that of Alexander Farnese, Duke of Parma is the most beautiful. The collection is rich in the arms of those times, also, - in swords, lances, battle-axes, and all the weapons employed either in tournament or mortal combat; and the ensemble affords the liveliest idea of the age of chivalry. The other apartments contain paintings, very old portraits of the early emperors &c. and a Museum of various works of art, a Cabinet of the Musical Instruments of the middle ages, and queer looking things are some of them, - Carvings in wood of wonderful delicacy and beauty, and a great quantity of old jewelry and trinkets. The most remarkable thing is the Salt-cellar made by Benvenuto Cellini for Francis I. which is thought a very wonderful work.

The Cabinet of Medals &c. - I believe I have mentioned. The Treasury or Cabinet of Gems I did not see. I had seen gems enough in the Mineralogical Cabinet, where there are models also of the crown diamonds, which to me were just as good as the real. The Museum of Zoology, I will not trouble you with. It is very large, and well arranged.

The Library occupies all one side of the Joseph-Platz, and is well worth a visit. I had the impression that it was the largest collection of printed books in the world, but I am informed that it is exceeded by the Library at Munich. It is immense, however, and in the number and value of its Manuscripts inferior only to the Library at Paris. I was shown here a copy of the first book ever printed, the Bible of Gutenberg and Faust: also a copy of the third book printed (a Psalter) believed to be the only one extant. Among the Manuscripts, we were shown a very ancient copy of St. Mark, and another of the four Evangelists, - a copy of Dioscorides

Schoenbrunn, the Versailles of Austria, is much like Versailles itself, on a smaller scale, but much less magnificent. I visited the grounds with Erdlicher, and also visited the Botanic Garden attached, under the care of Mr. Schott. The garden is very finely arranged, but all that is particularly worth seeing is the Conservatories and the large collection of Exotics many of them very old like those of Kew. It is richer than Kew in Palms, Aroidae &c. - but in other things it seems not quite equal. As we passed by the Palace, the Emperor was pointed out to me, through the open windows of his Cabinet. I am told privately that he is scarcely Compo Mentis, and that all government affairs are managed by a Regency of which Metternich and Arch Duke Charles are chief. We went next to see Baron Hügel, and the extensive collection of living plants he has collected during his travels. I think I have not told you the cause of his long journeying. He was, it appears, the accepted lover of an accomplished and beautiful lady of very good family here, and ~~it was~~ their union was considered as a settled affair. But unfortunately for poor Hügel, Prince Metternich looked upon the lady and determined to have her. So he sent Hügel upon some humbugging political mission, to Paris I believe, and during his absence he made his propositions to the father and mother, who were not slow in discovering that Metternich with all his riches and power, malgre his sixty odd years was the fittest bridegroom, and I am sorry to add that they persuaded the daughter to the same opinion, tho' she could have had little liking to the old fellow personally, and was said to be much attached to Hügel. The latter at length found out why he was sent to Paris, and came back with all speed, but he was too late. His intended became Princess Metternich, and Hügel set out to cure his disappointment or forget his love by travelling in foreign lands. Metternich being glad to get rid of them then sent home an immense quantity of dried specimens same time he made extensive collections of dried specimens &c. - which all reached Vienna safely. He spent nearly all his fortune in travelling and would have been in a quandary, but the government (that is to say Metternich) bought all his collections of dried plants, animals &c. - for the Imperial Cabinet, giving for them an immense price, some thirty times more than they are worth, and so Hügel is able to enlarge and embellish his place, improve his garden and build most beautiful green-houses. He has fitted up his house very tastefully and filled it with all manner of strange things, arms, idols, and so forth. His collection of living plants is larger than that of Schoenbrunn, tho' the trees are younger.

Several days after my arrival I called to pay my respects to our Minister here Mr. Muhlenberg, and the Secretary of Legation Mr. Clay. Philips and myself also spent an evening at Mr. Clay's, where we met Mr. & Mrs. Muhlenberg, and their daughter, a young lady of about seventeen. - also Mrs. Clay, a pretty but feeble woman, and Mrs. Schwartz (the American Consul here) and his wife, who both speak English indifferently well. Muhlenberg seems quite sick of living here, and speaks of the Austrians with any thing but praise.

We went one evening to a public garden (of which there are many here) to hear the most celebrated musician here, Mr. Strauss. A few kreutzers are charged for admission, and the company are nearly all seated at little tables, eating a substantial supper, or sipping coffee or ices as they incline, while Strauss with his fine band played the finest music, mostly pieces of his own composition. It was the finest music I ever heard.

Philips left me on Monday evening and went on to Prague. On Tuesday I arranged passport, left parcels to be sent to Hamburg, took leave, - came out to Muddoff after dinner, from which the steam-boat leaves, and after seeing my luggage deposited safely on board I climbed the Leopoldberg, - a steep mountain between 800 & 900 feet high, and enjoyed the beautiful and extensive view from its summit. - a fine view of Vienna, of the Danube branching into many different streams, forming pretty green islands, and the whole of the broad valley far into Hungary. In a fine day it is said the towers of Presburg, 200 miles off may be distinguished. The Danube (here as large as the Niagara, broad and swift washes the base of the mountain, and the view up the river, though not so extensive is more picturesque. I collected a handful of plants, bid good-bye to Vienna and descended, slept on shore, and was on board the boat in time to start with it at 5 o'clock this morning.

This was the first time I have slept in a genuine German bed, - a feather-bed beneath, and an eider-down bed the only cover. It is enclosed in a sheet like a pillow-case, and under this you creep. In the winter it might do very well, but at this time of the year it is very oppressive. The upper sheet here I find in all cases is tied fast to the coverlet, which is all of one piece, and just long enough to cover

a moderately sized man like myself from the chin to the toes. A taller person must choose between his shoulders and his toes, for they cannot both be covered.

Living is dear in Vienna. I stopped at a cheap hotel, being aware of this, and lived as economically as I well could, but I find I have made way with a very considerable sum. The only way to travel cheaply anywhere on the Continent is to not to be in a hurry, and to understand the language.

On the Danube, 6th June, Thursday, 10. A.M.

The Danube is a very rapid river, and our progress against the current is slow. The descent from Linz to Vienna (about 130 miles) is easily made in a single day; the ascent occupies two. We left at 5 o'clock yesterday morning, made several stoppages in the night; and about 5 this morning we passed Molk which is half way. The current in many places runs at the rate of 10 or 12 miles an hour. I believe we have passed some picturesque scenery in the night. At Stein which we reached just at night fall, the scenery is very like that of the Hudson below the Highlands; and the view down the river from Molk is extremely like that of the Highlands from Newburgh.

For the remainder thus far the banks of the river are in many places flat and uninteresting, but here and there they become picturesque. The most remarkable objects we have passed are three magnificent convents, which look rather like Imperial Palaces. The first, Kloster-Neuberg, is only three or four miles above Nussdorf, is placed close to the river at the base of the Kahlenberg. It is one of the oldest in Austria, and makes a beautiful appearance from the river, but is far surpassed by the two others.

The 2nd the Convent of Gottwich is finely situated on the crest of a hill, 3 or 4 miles from the river, which as it emerges from the Highlands above Stein makes a circuit half around it. Seen from the river it is a magnificent pile of building of vast extent, and you can imagine nothing more beautiful than the situation. The celebrated Convent of Molk came into sight just as I rose this morning. It stands on a rock which rises abruptly out of the river and makes a most stately appearance. Of its wealth you may form some idea from its wine-cellar, which at the time of Buonapartes' invasion of Austria, supplied his army with 50,000 pipes of wine daily, for several days in succession. The institution is now turned into a kind of literary seminary.

We have passed some pretty villages, and many ruins of old castles and fortresses. I missed Dürrenstein, celebrated as the prison of Richard Cœur de Lion; we passed it in the night; as we also did the Castles of Spitze; and Aggstein: the latter is also said to have been the prison of Richard for a short time, and has many old-world stories connected with it.

Friday Morning, 7th June, 8 o'clock.
We are still on our way; instead of arriving at 5 o'clock this morning as we ought, we shall not reach Linz, ^{and} until mid-day. We lay at anchor all the night. The boat is in every respect a comfortable one except that there are no provisions for sleeping. For two nights, the passengers, both gentlemen and ladies, have slept in their clothes stretched upon settees and chairs. Yesterday afternoon we passed through the most picturesque scenery the river affords, which is said to be scarcely inferior to the Rhine; but I must say I was very much disappointed in it. It is decidedly inferior to the Highlands of the Hudson; but it is finely set off by the old Castles which make a fine appearance, and we sometimes have three or four in view at once. The river where we now are passes through a broad valley, but the distant prospect to the south is becoming interesting, from the occasional views we get of a portion of the Styrian and Salzburg Alps. Some of the most interesting scenery in the world is near us, viz: the Salz Kammergut, and the region about Ischl. I hoped to have been in the midst of it to-day. There is a rail-road to Gmünd, and thence a little steam-boat to the upper end of the Traunsee, I still hope to get as far as Gmünd; perhaps even to Ischl, I shall get away from Linz at the earliest moment. The region was visited by Sir Humphrey Davy, who says it is finer than Switzerland. At least it is not so packed. It is farther to Munich by this route and via Salzburg than ^{by} the regular post-road, but I hope to lose little time, and to see some very fine country. I long to get away from this tedious river, which we are only able to ascend at the rate of three or four miles ^{an hour} at best. At one time yesterday, the boat with all the force of the engines, was barely able to counteract the current, and remained stationary for several minutes. It would be somewhat pleasanter to descend. I fancy, — But the scenery is becoming finer, and I must go on deck to enjoy it.

Notabilia for Dr. J.

(On board Steamboat
on the Danube)

I have seen Corda at Vienna. He is one of the Curators of the collection at Prague, and was at Vienna on a visit. Learning that I was there, he called and left his card. I afterward saw him at his hotel. He is a little fellow, about 30, with a small expressive countenance. He works chiefly at minute fungi, on which he is publishing a large work (I saw a part of it at London); he showed me an immense quantity of drawings, which he makes with great rapidity. He is also publishing a work supplementary to Sternberg's Flora of the former world; a work of which Corda did a good part. He gave me two copies of a lithograph of Count Sternberg (now dead you know) done by himself. I observed by his drawings that he has anticipated an unpublished discovery of Valentine's, which he showed to Lindley and myself in London, about the holes in the cells tissue of Sphagnum, opening exteriorly. I looked at Corda's microscope (one of which is at Berlin) but it is inferior much to the English and Bohemian.

I made a second visit to Sternberg, as he lay in bed, had a long botanical talk with him; and think him a most promising botanist.

Utricularia (the character of which Endlicher has not yet published - the last plate in the Atakta) was named in memory of Baron Utriquade, once an Ambassador from Austria to Constantinople or Persia. I forget which and who first introduced Aculeus Hippocastanum into Europe - Hence the propriety of the name. Endl. is soon to publish the descr. in the Annals of the Vienna Mus. - which work, with the Iconogr. Gen. Pl. he has promised to send to Hamburg for me along with the parcels of plants given me. We have studied the new Loganiaceous plant from Florida. It proves, as Brown guessed, near his Logania (or Gen.) Stomandra, but extremely distinct from that or any other genus, by the character of the style (which DeCaisne first noticed) Endlicher is to give a figure in Iconogr. Gen. Pl. and the descr. has gone to the printer, with the Ann. in one of Endlicher's articles in Vienna Museum. - Coelostylis loganioides, Torr. & Gr. Can't we get more of it? Has Seavenworth found it?

I have been looking over the Reliquiae Harkeanae, and examining what specimens of these Collections from Am. Bor. they

have in the herb. Vindob. Endlicher goes this week to Carlsbad to recruit his health, stopping a day at Prague. He has kindly taken a list of my desiderata of the species published in that work, and I hope to get some bits of them. I have copied so much from the work that we can get along even if I do not see it again. - but as I was about to purchase it Endlicher suggested that he should see if Presl himself has not a copy left for us. Following this hint I have sent by Endlicher a copy of Flora to Presl, in nomine auctoris.

There is a new genus of Presl in Soassa (Acrolasia) from Mexico, which may be Nuttall's. The most curious thing is a new genus of Datisleae from Monterey (why have none of the other collectors found it?) called Tricerastes, very interesting.

I find from all inquiries that it is very difficult to find Nees von Esenbeck at Breslau, especially in the summer. He is a queer stick altogether, is not well satisfied with his situation at Breslau, and spends the greatest part of his time at a little place high up the Riesengebirge studying Hepaticae.

I have bought Kriesebach's new "Genera & Species Gentianeae", and have been studying it on my way in the steam-boat. It seems very well done, particularly his preliminary matter on structure, affinities, development, geographical distribution &c, which is very interesting. It is very carelessly printed. Our well known "Juckerton" in the Pine-garrens, figures under the form of "Juckerton". Let this suffice for the present.